

**Executive Committee for Highway Safety  
Curbing Aggressive Driving Working Group  
Meeting Minutes – Mtg. #2  
August 9, 2004**

**Location:**

Chief Engineer's Conference Room, Beryl Rd, 9:00 a.m..

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Kevin Lacy	Cheryl Leonard	Ron Hughes	Libby Thomas
Major Barry Nickalson	Captain Glidewell	Pate Butler	Buddy Murr
Brad Hibbs	Cliff Braam		

**Scribe:**

Cliff Braam

**Minutes:**

- The meeting began at 9:00 a.m.

**Task I – Action Items From Last Meeting**

- Kevin opened the meeting, welcomed and thanked everyone for coming and participating.
- There was discussion of the various group definitions that were put together as to what our definition of aggressive driving should be. No final collective definition was determined.
- Review of Aggressive Driving Legislation; see discussion under Task III below.

**Task II – Development of an Implementation Plan**

- Cliff reminded everyone that the main task of the group was to examine different strategies for alleviating/reducing crashes involving aggressive driving and to present these to the Executive Committee for Highway Safety (ECHS) in the form of an implementation plan to see which ones they wanted to move forward with.
- There was general discussion about the implementation plan and its structure. It has been decided that the implementation plans for the working groups will follow the same general format as those presented in the NCHRP 500 reports.
- The group will take individual strategies and put enough information together so that when it is presented to the committee, the committee can make an informed decision as to which strategies they would like to see moved forward. After the last meeting of the ECHS, it was decided that when the strategies are presented to the ECHS, they should contain enough information for the strategy to move forward if the ECHS decides to do so. Therefore, each working group will only be presenting 1-2 strategies at each ECHS meeting.

### Task III– Brainstorming Exercise/General Discussion

There was a lot of general discussion about the new legislation on aggressive driving and other issues related to the subject. Listed below are the main topics discussed.

Name	Discussion
Lacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are the chances of getting the legislation applied/enforced/adjudicated and will it accomplish the same goals that we are trying to do here?</li></ul>
Glidewell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The patrol will send it out to the troop commanders to ensure that it is enforced.</li></ul>
Lacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• With 5 points being assessed, lawyers will likely be working hard to get these charges dismissed or plead them down.</li><li>• We may want to talk with a district attorneys and judges to see what the chances are the charge will make it through the system.</li><li>• If we look at a poor driver as compared to an aggressive driver, is there really a difference?</li></ul>
Glidewell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It will be up to the judge when the situation is explained as to whether the charge will hold. However, with more than one criteria having to be met, this gives the lawyers more room for attack and more things for enforcement to have to prove.</li><li>• District court judges will be an integral part of the process and getting them to buy into this legislation up front will be important.</li><li>• The General Statutes for this law are essentially all elements of a chase and this citation will be valid for chase scenarios.</li><li>• This charge will likely not stick with a first time offender.</li></ul>
Nickalson	I do not see a lot of charges stemming from this legislation.
Glidewell	A road trooper is more likely to stop a violator and charge them with careless and reckless and not wait for them to commit the other violations needed for this charge.
Thomas	Officer could make the charge and note on the citation that the individual was driving aggressively.
Lacy	Concerning the definitions of the group; most seem to have the commonality that multiple violations must be present.
Nickalson	We have got to increase the fines and hit people financially to stop these actions.
Lacy	To summarize: The problem with aggressive driving is there are too few enforcement personnel and too few people in the courts to fully adjudicate these citations and that our current practices are not sending the proper message to the public.
Murr	The present system perpetuates bad behavior, drivers know there are no to little penalties.
Hibbs	Need to look at adjudication rates and find out why the rates are so low.
Leonard	I agree, we need to look at adjudication and figure out how to increase these rates.
Thomas	How do these low rates affect our crashes?

Hughes	Courts have become processors. They do not see themselves as part of the highway safety process.
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After the discussions, it was decided that the following two ideas would be further developed as strategies for addressing aggressive driving and Technical work groups were formed to develop the strategies. These are listed below:

### **Top Priorities:**

#### **Review Adjudication Rates of Citations that are Processed as Charged**

Members: Ron Hughes (Chair)  
Kevin Lacy  
Cheryl Leonard  
Major Nickalson

#### **Identify Traffic Operation Conditions to See What may Contribute to Aggressive Driver Behavior**

Members: Buddy Murr/Pate Butler (Co-Chairs)  
Libby Thomas

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

### **Action Items:**

Name	Item
Nickalson	Review new law and it's origin to determine the intent of the law.
Leonard	Pull information from Dade County, Florida to review conviction rates on aggressive driving law.

NEXT MEETING: September 20<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Chief Engineer's Conference Room